(c) and (d) : The quantitative restrictions on imports of various items have been removed from time to time as part of economic reforms, to meet domestic shortages and also in accordance with our international commitments. Removal of QRs over the years has not had any significant impact on the average rate of growth of imports so far. In fact, non-oil imports during April—March, 2001 have shown a negative growth of 3.5 as compared to last year. Efforts have also been made to provide a level playing field to domestic producers by calibrating the duty structure, which has been revised as and when considered necessary. In addition, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, regulations, procedure and technical standards applicable to the domestic products.

Most of our imports comprise raw materials, essential items, capital goods and petroleum crude. It is neither possible nor economically feasible to produce all our requirements within the country.

Export of Agricultural Produce by APEDA

3834. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka unit of APEDA is buying gherkins for exports;

(b) if so, the details of other agricultural produce APEDA plans to export ; and

(c) whether APEDA propose to enter into purchase of mangoes from Karnataka in view of the high production of mangoes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is not directly involved in trading and exporting agro products but only assists the exporters through its various schemes and promotional activities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Visits of the Minister

3835. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by the Minister during the last two years; and

(b) the details of proposals/achievements of those visits, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the